CLAIMS

Please enter the following claim amendments.

What is claimed is:

1.   (currently amended) A database management system for use with a searchable computerized database, comprising:

a database containing data items;

a user input interface for receiving database queries for specific data from users of said database;

a limit engine module, interfacing with said database ~~responsive to said user input interface~~ for revising~~expanding~~ a database user's query for specific data to include data within a programmable range of deviation from said database user query, said revision being accomplished via a pre-selected algorithm without further user-supplied parameters being required;

a query builder module responsive to said limit engine module for formulating a database search query for database data within said range of deviation supplied by said limit engine module;

a query processor module responsive to said query builder module for processing said database search query formulated by said search query builder module; and

a user display interface for displaying the results of said database search query processed by said query processor module to the database user.

2.   (original) The database management system of Claim 1, wherein said limit engine is programmed to expand a database user's query for specific data to include data within a fixed percentage of deviation from the database user's query.

3.   (original) The database management system of Claim 1, wherein said limit engine is programmed to expand a database user's query for specific data to include data within a fixed statistical standard deviation of data within said database from the database user's query.

4.   (original) The database management system of Claim 1, further comprising a ranking module responsive to said query processor module for ranking database data within said range of deviation according to how closely said data matches the database user's query for specific data.

5.   (original) The database management system of Claim 4, further comprising a sort module responsive to said ranking module for sorting said ranked database data into descending order based on the rank assigned to each item within said range of deviation data by said ranking module.

6.   (currently amended) A method for providing database search query results according to similarity of database objects to search query criteria within a programmable range of deviation, comprising the following steps:

   receiving a database user query input for specific data;

   revisingexpanding said user query input, said revision being accomplished automatically via a pre-selected algorithm without further user-supplied parameters being required, to include data within said programmed range of deviation from said query;

   formulating a database search query for database data within said programmed range of deviation;

   processing said database search query for database data within said programmed range of deviation; and

   displaying the results of said database search query to the database user.

7.　　(original) The method for providing database search query results according to similarity of database objects to search query criteria within a programmable range of deviation of Claim 6, further comprising the step of ranking database data within said programmed range of deviation according to how closely said data matches the user's query for specific data.

8.　　(original) The method for providing database search query results according to similarity of database objects to search query criteria within a programmable range of deviation of Claim 7, further comprising the step of sorting said ranked database data into descending order based on the rank assigned to each data item within said programmed range of deviation.